Application No. 09/470,163
Amendment dated August 31, 2004
Response to Office Action of September 10, 2003

Atty. Docket No. 042390.P7777
Examiner Quang Nguyen
TC/A.U. 2141

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising:

a forwarding element ~~adapted~~ to perform data forwarding in a computer network, the forwarding element configurable with a device-specific instruction set;

a control element ~~adapted~~ to perform network signaling and control in the computer network, the control element outputting non-device-specific instructions to configure the forwarding element;

an interconnecting element operatively connecting the forwarding element to the control element; and

a forwarding element plugin integrated with the control element to receive ~~for receiving~~ the non-device-specific ~~uniform standardized data set~~ instructions from the control element, translating the instructions ~~uniform standardized data set~~ into ~~a proprietary specialized data~~ the device-specific instruction set ~~to~~ of the forwarding element, and transmitting the ~~proprietary specialized data set~~ device-specific instructions to the forwarding element ~~to configure the forwarding element~~, wherein the forwarding element utilizes the ~~proprietary specialized data set~~ device-specific instructions to configure the forwarding element for performing data forwarding in the computer network ~~to facilitate integration of uniform standardized data set with proprietary specialized data set~~.

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2. (Currently Amended) The computer system according to claim 1, further including an opaque forwarding element plugin for receiving the ~~standardized data set~~ non-device-specific instructions from the control element and transmitting the ~~standardized data set~~ non-device-specific instructions to the forwarding element plugin, and for receiving the ~~specialized data set~~ translated, device-specific instructions from the forwarding element plugin and transmitting the ~~specialized data set~~ device-specific instructions to the forwarding element.

3. (Currently Amended) The computer system according to claim 1, wherein the ~~specialized data set is~~ device-specific instructions are transmitted in the form of a binary large object.

4. (Currently Amended) The computer system according to claim 1, wherein the forwarding element further includes a decapsulator that receives the ~~specialized data set~~ device-specific instructions and decapsulates ~~the specialized data set~~ them into data readable by a device-specific forwarding element interface of the forwarding element to configure the forwarding element.

5. (Currently Amended) The computer system according to claim 1, wherein the ~~specialized data set is~~ device-specific instructions are transmitted to a decapsulator in the forwarding element for decapsulating the ~~specialized data set~~ device-specific instructions.

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6.   (Currently Amended) The computer system according to claim 1, wherein

the ~~specialized data set is~~ device-specific instructions are encrypted before transmission

to the forwarding element, and the encrypted ~~specialized data set is~~ device-specific

instructions are decrypted at the forwarding element.

7.   (Original) The computer system according to claim 1, wherein the

forwarding element plugin is a dynamic link library.

8.   (Currently Amended) A method for configuring a computer device, the

method comprising:

generating ~~a uniform standardized data set~~ non-device-specific instructions by a

control element for configuring a forwarding element;

transmitting the ~~uniform standardized data set~~ non-device-specific instructions

from the control element to a forwarding element plugin integrated with the control

element;

translating the ~~uniform standardized data set~~ non-device-specific instructions into

~~a proprietary~~ device-specific instructions specialized ~~data set to~~ for the forwarding

element; and

transmitting the ~~proprietary specialized data set~~ device-specific instructions to the

forwarding element for configuring the forwarding element ~~facilitating integration of~~

~~uniform standardized data set with proprietary specialized data set~~.

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9.   (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the forwarding

element is adapted to perform data forwarding in a computer network.

10.   (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the control element

is adapted to perform network signaling ad control in a computer network.

11.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, further including:

receiving the ~~standardized data set~~ non-device-specific instructions, by an opaque

forwarding element plugin, from the control element; and

transmitting the ~~standardized data set~~ non-device-specific instructions, by the

opaque forwarding element plugin, to the forwarding element plugin.

12.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, further including:

receiving the ~~specialized data set~~ device-specific instructions, by an opaque

forwarding element plugin, from the forwarding element plugin; and

transmitting the ~~specialized data set~~ device-specific instructions, by the opaque

forwarding element plugin, to the forwarding element.

13.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, further including:

decapsulating the ~~specialized data set~~ device-specific instructions into data

readable by a device-specific forwarding element interface of the forwarding element for

configuring the forwarding element.

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14.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein the

~~specialized data set is~~ device-specific instructions are sent in the form of a binary large

object.

15.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, further including:

encrypting the ~~specialized data set~~ device-specific instructions before transmitting

~~the specialized data set~~ them to the forwarding element; and

decrypting the ~~specialized data set~~ device-specific instructions at the forwarding

element.

16.   (Original) The method according to claim 8, wherein the forwarding

element plugin is a dynamic link library.

17.   (Currently Amended) An article comprising a machine-readable medium

storing instruction that, when executed by a processor, the instructions perform,

receiving a ~~uniform standardized data set~~ non-device specific instructions,

generated by a control element, for configuring ~~the~~ a forwarding element ~~generated by~~

~~the control element~~;

translating the ~~uniform standardized data set~~ non-device-specific instructions into

a ~~proprietary~~ device-specific instructions specialized ~~data set to~~ for the forwarding

element; and

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transmitting the ~~proprietary specialized data set~~ <u>device-specific instructions</u> to the forwarding element for configuring the forwarding element ~~to facilitate integration of uniform standardized data set with proprietary specialized data set~~.

18.   (Currently Amended) The article according to claim 17, wherein the instructions further perform:

receiving the ~~uniform standardized data set~~ <u>non-device-specific instructions</u> from an opaque forwarding element plugin; and

transmitting the ~~proprietary specialized data set~~ <u>device-specific instructions</u> to the opaque forwarding element plugin.

19.   (Currently Amended) The article according to claim 17, wherein the instructions further perform:

encrypting the ~~proprietary specialized data set~~ <u>device-specific instructions</u> before transmission to the forwarding element.

20.   (Currently Amended) The article according to claim 17, wherein the ~~proprietary specialized data set includes~~ <u>device-specific instructions are transmitted in the form of</u> a binary large object.

21.   (Previously Presented) The article according to claim 17, wherein the machine-readable medium includes a dynamic link library.